

217543US0CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
LEWIS M. POPPLEWELL ET AL : EXAMINER:
SERIAL NO.: NEW APPLICATION :
FILED: HEREWITH : GROUP ART UNIT:
FOR: HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS AND
MEDICAL USE THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

Page 1, on new line after the title, insert:

This application is a continuation of International Patent Application PCT/JP00/04298, which was filed on June 29, 2000, and which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application 11-187959, which was filed on July 1, 1999, and to Japanese Patent Application 2000-71706, which was filed on March 15, 2000, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown on the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

18. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1.

19. (Amended) An AP-1 activation inhibitor or a NF-kappaB activation inhibitor comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1.

20. (Amended) An inflammatory cytokine production inhibitor, a production inhibitor for matrix metalloprotease or an inflammatory cell adhesion factor expression inhibitor comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claims 18-20 to remove improper multiple dependencies. Accordingly, support for amended Claims 18-20 can be found in the same claims.

No new matter has been added. Claims 1-20 are active in this application.

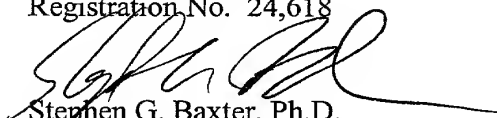
REMARKS

Applicants submit that the application is ready for examination on the merits, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP COPY OF
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
FILED ON DECEMBER 31, 2001

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--18. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to [any one of claims 1 to 17] claim 1.

19. (Amended) An AP-1 activation inhibitor or a NF-kappaB activation inhibitor comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to [any one of claims 1 to 17] claim 1.

20. (Amended) An inflammatory cytokine production inhibitor, a production inhibitor for matrix metalloprotease or an inflammatory cell adhesion factor expression

inhibitor comprising as an active ingredient a heterocyclic compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to [any one of claims 1 to 17] claim 1.--